

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

Date Completed/Revised:

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Month			Day			Year			

Continuum of Care (CoC) Name: Portland/Gresham/Multnomah County		CoC #: OR-501
CoC Representative: Sally Erickson		Title: Manager, Ending Homelessness Initiative, City of Portland
Phone/Email: 503.823.0883		
Person Completing this Plan: Alex Glover		Title: Veterans Services Director, Transition Projects
Phone/Email: 503.280.4673		

1. Primary Planning and Coordination Group: Identify the primary group responsible for planning and coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in the CoC. Identify the principal members of this group and their affiliation.

Primary Group Name: Operation 424	
Principle Members	Affiliation
Sally Erickson	City of Portland
Rachel Carlson	HUDVASH
Alex Glover	Transition Projects
Eric Ensley	Multnomah County Veterans Services
Chris Aiosa	Central City Concern
Wendy Smith	City of Portland

2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group or a related review/coordination group meets to review Veterans who are homeless, track progress toward re-housing, and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

Operation 424 meets monthly and is comprised of city and county officials, directors of non-profits, and representatives from the local VA who are all already involved in a broad effort in Multnomah County to end veteran homelessness by 2015.

Transition Projects and Operation 424 set a goal of housing 100 chronically homeless veterans by Veterans Day; we exceeded that goal. Through Operation 424, Portland is participating in the VA's 25 Cities Initiative. We are tracking our progress toward ending veteran homelessness through our Continuum of Care's HMIS system and Portland VA Medical Center Homes data.

Topics covered at our monthly meetings include:

- Identifying gaps and barriers for serving homeless veterans
- Coordinated assessment
- Strategies for ending homelessness and chronic homelessness among veterans
- VASH utilization, including improving housing retention rates

3. SSVF Grantees Serving CoC Geography: Identify each SSVF funded agency serving Veterans in the CoC geography and each SSVF total grant award amount for FY15, including priority 1 ("surge"), 2 (renewals), and 3 (other new) awards. If one agency has multiple awards, list each separately. Pro-rate a grant award amount if the award covers more than one CoC geography. Include the projected annual number of households each grantee can serve and the total number of households across all grantees.

Grantee Agency Name	Grant Amount	Total Annual Projected Households	Total Annual Projected Households: Rapid Re-Housing	% of Total Households to be Assisted with Rapid Re-Housing
Transition Projects P1	\$2,000,000	266	213	80
Transition Projects P2	\$1,381,014	120	72	60
TOTAL	3,381,014	386	285	140

4. Annual Demand and Need for Rapid Re-Housing Assistance: Using the *Veterans Demand Analysis and Progress Tracking Tool* or other demand analysis data agreed to by the primary group above, identify:

- The most recent actual or projected annual unduplicated number of homeless Veterans (on street and/or who access emergency shelter, Safe Havens, or transitional housing, including GPD) in the CoC geography, by household type
- The number of those Veterans who will need rapid re-housing assistance to exit homelessness
- The number of Veterans needing rapid re-housing assistance who are projected to be eligible for SSVF RRH assistance.

	Annual Unduplicated Homeless Veteran Households	Estimated # of Needing RRH (a)	Projected # to be Assisted with SSVF RRH (b)	Projected # to be Assisted with Other RRH (c)	Gap (a-(b+c))
Households without Children	**Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected
Households with Children	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected
Total Homeless Veteran Households	785	353*	285	68	0

*This estimate uses the VA assumption that 25% of homeless veterans self-resolve their homeless status.

**We are currently working to integrate data between HMIS and HOMES to get an estimate of households with children

5. CoC Goals for Ending Homelessness Among Veterans: List the CoC's goals for ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (fill in additional related goals the CoC has determined, if relevant).

What are the CoC's goals for the estimated number of Veterans, including chronically homeless Veterans, who will be homeless as of the night of the January 2016 PIT Count?

	All Homeless Veteran Households (including CH)			Chronically Homeless Veteran Households		
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL
Households without Children	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected
Households with Children	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data not collected	Data collected
Total Households	0	0	0	0	0	0

*In January 2015, our CoC executive committee approved directing local resources to house every homeless veteran, filling gaps not met by SSVF, VASH, GPD and other VA resources.

Has the CoC established other goals related to preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes", please describe:

Our Continuum of Care developed an Action Plan for Homeless Veterans. Please see the attachment for a detailed overview of the Action Plan.

6. SSVF Integration into CoC Coordinated Assessment System: Briefly describe how Veterans access SSVF assistance (across all SSVF grantees) via the CoC's coordinated assessment system (e.g., "All Veterans who present to the CoC coordinated assessment center are screened for their current situation, needs, and SSVF eligibility. Then....). If not yet fully developed, describe your plans and implementation timeframe. Specifically address:

- a) How Veterans who present for shelter are screened and diverted to SSVF homelessness prevention assistance when they have somewhere safe and appropriate to stay that night.
- b) How Veterans who become literally homeless are screened and triaged to SSVF rapid re-housing assistance as soon as possible once it is clear the Veteran is unable to resolve their homelessness without assistance.

In spring of 2015, OR-501 will pilot a coordinated assessment system that will focus initially on our community's permanent supportive housing resources. After refining our model, we will incorporate other resources, including SSVF into our coordinated assessment system.

In the meantime, Transition Projects has taken several steps to coordinate intake and assessment for veterans:

- We have developed an online pre-screening tool for SSVF and other resources. Transition Projects operates all SSVF resources in our Continuum of Care
- We staff and operate a toll-free hotline where we triage veteran families for all available resources for which they may qualify.
- We provide screenings weekly at our local Community Resource and Referral center and triage veterans for immediate safety off the street options and SSVF, GPD, and HUDVASH resources.

Transition Projects and our partner Central City Concern both operate GPD programs in our continuum of care, which are the most immediate form of shelter for veterans in our CoC. Central City Concern is a sub-recipient of our SSVF program. Both programs provide information regarding GPD and SSVF simultaneously and veterans self-select what option works best for their need.

Due to the extensive partnership with local providers and the VA, veterans identified in need or rapid rehousing, are given direct referrals to Transition Projects SSVF.

7. Long-Term System Improvements: Briefly describe how the CoC plans to utilize SSVF Priority 1 and all other SSVF funding over the next three years to foster long-term system improvements and optimization so that homelessness is prevented whenever possible and when it does occur, it is rare and brief. Specifically address areas for improvement related to:

- a) Further integrating SSVF assistance into the CoC's planning, oversight processes and coordinated assessment system.
- b) Ensuring comprehensive coordination with VA systems and other VA funded programs.
- c) Improving or establishing partnerships with community-based services and public/private housing providers.

We plan to ensure that SSVF resources help foster long-term system improvements. Specifically:

- We are coordinating all VA-provided resources and ensuring that veterans get connected to the right resource for them.
- We are identifying gaps in VA resources that must be filled locally.
- Transition Projects has VA staff stationed at its facilities and does weekly outreach at VA facilities in order to ensure comprehensive coordination with VA systems.
- Operation 424 and Transition Projects will be a part of all coordinated assessment discussions and plans in our CoC.
- Operation 424 and local elected leadership—including Portland’s Mayor and our county chair—have made call outs for property managers to rent to veterans. Our most recent call out was on November 10th—one day before Veterans Day.
- We are working to enhance the linkage to employment through new positions created at our Medical Center and through the addition of Employment Specialists in our SSVF grant.
- Operation 424 has adopted an equity lens in order to ensure veterans of color are able to experience equitable outcomes.
- Transition Projects SSVF has been working closely with our local VASH Lead to coordinate and create a transition in place model for veterans needing long-term support.
- Transition Projects SSVF has partnered with the Clark Center, a local residential program, to have five guest beds for veterans not eligible for GPD or who are looking for a safety off the streets model while working with their SSVF Case Manager.
- Operation 424 has created a thirteen point plan to house all homeless veterans by the end of 2015. The plan has been approved by the Home for Everyone Executive Committee and outlines reallocation and prioritization of existing resources, funding for new and existing programs, legislative asks and system enhancements. The thirteen point plan is attached.

8. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

Strengths:

- Transition Projects and Operation 424 members are well-connected in the community.
- Our local Community Resource and Referral Center is well-integrated into our operations and is a significant referral source.
- Transition Projects is a recognized and respected provider of veterans services.
- Transition Projects is in our third year being an SSVF grantee.
- With the addition of enhanced screening and outreach capacity, we are partnering with our local County Veterans Service Office, faith-based organizations, and culturally specific service organizations to target veterans in underserved areas of Multnomah County.
- Portland Housing Bureau is currently undergoing a process of investing \$20 million in affordable housing development in the areas of North and Northeast Portland.

Challenges:

- We lack enough affordable housing to end veteran homelessness.
- It can be challenging to bring together the multitude of providers and a complex system of services together for coordinated assessment.
- We anticipate increasing difficulty locating veterans in underserved pockets in Multnomah County.
- It is challenging to locate property managers who are willing to rent to veterans with high barriers.